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June 25, 1946

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Lieutenant General Hoyt S. Vandenberg  
 Director  
 Central Intelligence Group  
 Room 2166  
 New War Department Building  
 21st and Virginia Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear General Vandenberg:

Reference is made to the memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence dated June 20, 1946, entitled, "Functions of the Director of Central Intelligence." To this memorandum was attached a proposed Directive for the National Intelligence Authority detailing certain additional functions for the Director of Central Intelligence, including undertaking basic research and analysis, conducting all federal foreign espionage and counterespionage, and the conducting of federal monitoring of press and propaganda broadcasts of foreign powers.

I desire to indicate my approval of this Directive with the exception that the following changes be made in it. These changes are suggested for clarification purposes only.

I suggest that Section 3 should read: "In addition to the functions specified in Paragraph 3b of the President's letter, the Director of Central Intelligence is hereby directed to act as the executive agent of this Authority in coordinating and supervising all federal intelligence activities performed outside the United States and its possessions relating to the national security in accordance with the overall policies and objectives established by this Authority."

It is suggested that Sub A under Section 4 should read: "Conduct all federal espionage and counterespionage operations outside the United States and its possessions for the collection of foreign intelligence information required for the national security."

It is noted in the "Discussion" which is carried as Appendix "B" to the suggested Directive that the statement is made concerning the need for one agency to handle world-wide coverage that, "This does not, of course, preclude the use of specialized departmental personnel under rigid central control." It occurs to me that this statement is

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probably based upon an erroneous interpretation of the President's letter of January 22, 1946. It is my understanding from a reading of this Directive that authority is given to the National Intelligence Authority to call upon the State, War, and Navy Departments to assign from time to time persons and facilities of their respective departments to work under the direction of the Director of Central Intelligence. As for other departments and agencies, the Directive merely calls for the furnishing by those agencies of "such intelligence information relating to the national security as is in their possession."

If this Directive is approved, it would appear to me that there would be no reason why the Federal Bureau of Investigation should not withdraw as rapidly as possible from Central and South America. I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me as to whether or not you concur with this interpretation by me.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

"Signed"

J. EDGAR HOOVER

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